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Illinois State Centennial Commission

REPORT

OF THE

Committee for Publications

November 19, 1913.

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But these latter subjects would represent Illinois as it is in 1918, at the close of the first century, and, hence, to complete the historical picture in the minds of our people, a volume ought to be planned showing the economic and social conditions in Illinois in 1818. For the sake of our chronological vision of the development of the State and also for the purpose of bringing the Centennial Celebration vividly before us, this volume ought to be published as soon as practicable, and would serve to create publicity and interest. This subject could certainly be worked out in a very readable and attractive way.

Upon this consideration, and with the aid of specialists on the various subjects, your Committee has evolved the following scheme of publications, embracing not only the political history, but also all the phases of the development of the people of Illinois, economic, social, religious, educational, and military. The different volumes may be written by different men, but there should be a general editor to correlate them. The following tentative plan is suggested:

CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF ILLINOIS.

- Volume I. Province and Territory, 1673-1818.
- Volume II. The Frontier State, 1818-1848.
- Volume III. The Era of Transition, 1848-1870.
- Volume IV. The Industrial State, 1870-1893.
- Volume V. The Modern Commonwealth, 1893-1918.

Estimated Expense.

Transcripts from Paris	\$ 1,000 00
Transcripts from Washington	2,000 00
Transcripts from private collections	1,000 00
Photographs of newspapers	5,000 00
Books	3,500 00
Three research assistants (4 years)	12,000 00
One stenographer (4½ years)	3,375 00
Photostat	400 00
Supplies	1,000 00
Traveling expenses	1,500 00
Printing	10,000 00
	\$40,775 00

In contrast with this purely historical series are the later Publications, which are recommended to consist of an extensive survey of the Commonwealth at the close of the first century to be entitled: "*The*

Illinois Centennial Survey," and to be published in three series, as follows:

A. GEOLOGICAL SERIES.

- Volume I. Physiography and General Geology.
 Volume II. The Mineral Industries.
 Volume III. Meteorology, Climate, Water, and Soils.

Estimated Expense.

Printing	\$9,000 00
Assistants (4 years)	8,000 00
Other expenses	3,000 00
	\$20,000 00

B. BIOLOGICAL SERIES.

- Volume I. General Biology.
 Volume II. Economic Biology.
 Volume III. Economic Biology.

Estimated Expense.

Printing	\$9,000 00
Assistants	5,000 00
Other expenses	1,000 00
	\$15,000 00

C. ECONOMIC SERIES.

- Volume I. Transportation and Commerce.
 Volume II. Agriculture.
 Volume III. Manufactures.
 Volume IV. Banking and Finance.

Estimated Expense.

Printing	\$ 8,000 00
Assistants	10,000 00
Other expenses	5,000 00
	\$23,000 00

To make this Survey more comprehensive, a Social Series might be added, containing volumes on Government, Social Conditions, Reli-

gion, Education, and Publishing Activities. The preparation of some of the volumes of this series would be very difficult, and no data is at hand on which recommendations could be based. Therefore no estimate for such a series is presented.

As already stated, your Committee advises that the Centennial Commission publish as its first issue a volume setting forth the condition of the State about the time of its admission to the Union. Such a volume would be one of the best means of calling attention to the great development of the State during the first century, and it would arouse the interest of the people in the future Centennial Celebration. For this purpose it might be well to publish the volume a few years before 1918. The following is suggested as an outline of the proposed volume:

Illinois in 1818.—An Account of Social, Economic and Political Conditions at the Close of the Territorial Period; of the Organization of the State; and of its Admission to the Union.

Chapter I. Population: Census in 1818; A Study of the Schedules; Elements of Population; Extent of Settlement.

Chapter II. Social Conditions on the Frontiers; How the Pioneers Lived.

Chapter III. Economic Conditions: Agriculture; Transportation; Manufacturing; Etc.

Chapter IV. Religious Conditions.

Chapter V. Education and Culture: Schools; Newspapers; Reading.

Chapter VI. The Political Situation: Territorial Factions; Political Leaders.

Chapter VII. The Movement for Admission.

Chapter VIII. Congregational Action.

Chapter IX. Election of 1818 and Organization.

Chapter X. The First General Assembly; Its Composition; Activities; First Code of Laws; Etc.

This volume, by title and format, would be an integral part of the whole series and would be published first, as a matter of expediency.

The volume should contain from 350 to 400 pages. It should be a narrative, embodying documents and extensive quotations from books of travel and contemporary newspapers. It should be richly illustrated with reproductions of portraits, contemporary prints and maps, and photographs of old houses, furniture, and implements. If a reasonable amount of money could be made available at once for the collection of the material, it is believed that such a volume could be ready for publication in the fall of 1915.

Estimated Expense.

Preparation of manuscripts	\$ 500 00
Printing and distributing of edition of 10,000	9,500 00
	\$10,000 00

Such a Survey of the State, if prepared with scientific thoroughness by experts in the respective fields, would be of immense practical value in the solution of many present day problems which confront the people of the State, and would furnish the future historian with a valuable mass of material. No comprehensive and unified survey of this sort has ever been carried out by any other state or country and the work would attract the attention of scholars and scientific men all over the world and would set an example for others to follow.

Estimated Total Expense.

Centennial History	\$10,775 00
Geological Series	20,000 00
Biological Series	15,000 00
Economic Series	23,000 00
Illinois in 1818	10,000 00
	\$108,775 00

From a review of the different chapters of a publication of this kind we see that the Historical Series would appeal rather more to the cultured and those historically inclined while the three series devoted to Geology, Biology, and Economics will be of great practical import to every one engaged in any industry relating to these subjects. The farmer, the miner, the cattleman, the fisherman, the merchant, the skilled laborer, as well as the financier, will find the fundamentals of his trade or business treated in the most searching manner in the Publications. These vocations are already conducted on scientific principles and must necessarily progress by the still greater application of science. It is well known that the ordinary resources of our State are not yet cultivated to their proper extent. Through a Centennial Publication, appearing at a time when all attention will be directed to the greatness of our State, a stronger impression on our people may be hoped for than at ordinary times by the usual bulletins.

These three practical series are particularly set prominent in this report so as to disarm the opinion that the Publication, issued at great cost, is to be of mere academic value to those of historical or literary inclination. The practical value will by far outstrip the other. Your

Committee believes it will become a handbook of information for the future pioneer and promotor of the work of the State. Whatever attracts and develops further enterprise in our State will help to retain, and, we hope, advance its prestige still farther in the scale of its importance and influence in the galaxy of our states.

As the work can be carried on in definite steps only, the expense will be distributed over perhaps five or six years and thus the appropriations can be divided into perhaps three parts, extending over three sessions of the Legislature.

The attention of the Commission is called to the fact that the estimates do not include any compensation for the services of editors or authors.

The editions had best be limited to three thousand copies. Your Committee believes that this number would be sufficient, as the Commission ought not to undertake to supply the Publications to others than legislators, officials, schools and libraries of the State, while larger editions could be printed by the Legislatures for the public and furnished at a very reasonable price to cover the expense of its reproduction and carriage.

On account of the lack of time, especially if it is necessary to wait for the next session of the Legislature, it behooves your Committee to suggest that nevertheless some arrangements ought to be made for the beginning of the work; this, first of all, implies some available plan for securing editors. This would necessitate the appointment of a chief editor or a board of editors and of sub-editors. Fortunately, within the last ten to fifteen years specialists in all these departments have been developed, especially in the State institutions of learning, whose work would naturally be correlated to the demands within the State. But as no available funds for the larger beginning of the work are at hand now, it will be necessary to arrange in some way with suitable persons to undertake the editorships. Your Committee believes this perfectly feasible, providing that the Commission, in some way, will eventually compensate the chosen editors for the preliminary work at the time of completion or earlier, when in funds.

Some guarantee ought also be given against any wilful, unreasonable change of editorship.

Perhaps the Commission might even now find some sum out of the present appropriation for the immediate beginning of the "1818" book.

The time of publication of this first volume has not yet been sufficiently discussed, probably not before 1916, if the plan of publication is accepted at all. The others need not be issued till the Celebration;

even then some of the scientific volumes could be withheld till the year 1919, so as to completely close the first century of our statehood.

SUMMARY.

Your Committee recommends that a Centennial Publication of approximately sixteen volumes, six historical and ten scientific, be adopted.

That the cost of \$108,000.00 (without compensation of the authors) be distributed over three legislative sessions; the first appropriation might be considerably less than one even third and then the later appropriations as the Centennial approaches, might be correspondingly increased.

That some method of a firm contract with the authors should be devised so as to obtain an early start and also to secure them against unwarranted removal.

That the books of the social and industrial conditions of 1818 should be the first published.

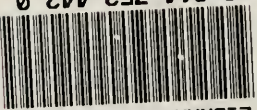
Respectfully submitted,

FOR THE COMMITTEE

OTTO L. SCHMIDT, *Chairman*

November 19, 1913.

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